

REMARKS

Claims 31-46 and 50 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ulrich (U.S. Pat. No. 6,895,438). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 31, 39 and 50 have been amended to further define an unassigned data management mechanism to allow unidentified communication events not known to the database to be identified by performing the following steps. Namely, looking for communication events with an address that cannot be identified by the database (and are therefore unidentified addresses); counting the number of times each unidentified address is seen; and then marking an unidentified address for identification if the count exceeds a predefined threshold. Thus, as used herein, an unidentified address is one in which one of the communicating parties cannot be identified although the communication itself is seen. The communication is temporarily marked such that it may be identified subsequently. Thereafter, the number of occurrences are counted and if this count exceeds a threshold, measures are taken to identify the unidentified party. Basis for these amendments may be found in paragraph [0084] of the application as published.

In contrast, the Ulrich reference does not disclose unassigned data management as claimed by claim 31 as amended herein. Line 3 of column 7 states that the proxy server

assigns the duration data from the normalizing algorithms to a network node in a relational database management system for subsequent aggregation and analysis. It is therefore apparent that Ulrich is primarily concerned with the aggregation data in order to measure the totality of data flow between looking to see which actual communications take place. The present invention is directed towards identifying all communications that take place within the environment. This includes communications that are not currently known to the database and therefore could not be present as nodes within the database. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 31, 39 and 50, along with claims depending therefrom, defines patentable subject matter over Ulrich. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The disclosure continues to the effect that it provides alerts if the individual or aggregated durations exceed boundaries set by the rules etc. It continues to say that user defined rules may include the setting of maximum and minimum thresholds for the aggregated time spent during a specified time period by a designated group within the organization in communicating electronically with a particular customer or supplier.

Thus, when Ulrich makes reference to a threshold, this threshold relates to the total amount of time spent communicating. The present invention, as emphasized by the claim amendment proposed herein sets a threshold which relates to the number of times that an unidentified address (not known to the database) is seen. When the threshold is reached, an alert is created. In an exemplary embodiment as recited in claim 40, a message is sent when the threshold is reached. In an exemplary embodiment as recited in claim 41, the threshold is defined as a preset number of occurrences within a preset time interval. For these additional

reasons, these claims define patentable subject matter over Ulrich.

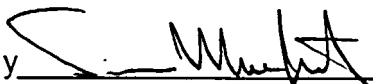
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 9637-000077/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 21, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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